

Title: Need to take steps to re-open stilwell international road in Arunachal Pradesh - Laid.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (ARUNACHAL EAST): Arunachal Pradesh is in the north eastern part of the country bordering Bhutan, China and Myanmar. There are limited options for growth and economic development in view of the hostile terrain. The situation is further aggravated by continued insurgent activities, in particular, in the north east region. One of the few but potential existing sources for ensuring fruitful and tangible activity lies in utilizing the vast opportunities promised by the international highway, popularly known as stilwell Road hitherto remaining dormant. The road emanates from Ledo in Assam and traversing through Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh enters into Myanmar through Pangsau Pass, the last Indian outpost bordering Myanmar, and finally extending to the Peoples' Republic of China. This road which is a 1079 mile long marvel was constructed during World War II by the Allies as a supply route to China while fighting with the Japanese and is still in fairly good condition. The trade route thereafter can extended to China connecting with the Old Burma Road and other South Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore, etc. Hence, there is an urgent need to take initiative to start talks with the Myaanmarese Government in this behalf to re-open the Stillwell Road for bilateral trade.